

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday December 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mike Warner, Charlotte
Gregory Hardee, Charlotte
Chris Maloy, Charlotte
Scott Jernigan, Charlotte
Louis Cosentine, Huntersville
Daniel MacRae, Charlotte
Kalan Pegg, Charlotte
Joshua Niday, Charlotte

STAFF: Pamela White, Duretta Weicken, Brian Horton, Larry Kopf, Olaf Kinard
Wanda Braswell, Jason Lawrence

Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of the November Meeting Summary

Chairman Michael Warner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.,
The November meeting summary was approved as written.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There was no one from the public at the meeting to give comment.

III. Action Items:

A. February Service Change

Pamela White CATS Planning and Special Operations Manager reviewed the February service change saying as stated in the last meeting the minor changes to the Route 9 Central Avenue has needs to address capacity issues on Sunday, adding additional trips to Albemarle Park and Ride and to provide trips to seniors during subscribed travel times. Ms. White asked the committee if they would recommend these changes to MTC.

Mr. Warner asked Ms. White to clarify when the 20 minute schedule would begin.

Ms. White stated the 20 minute schedule would begin on Sunday after 6:30 PM.

Mr. Jernigan asked if the changes would require hiring more operators. Ms. White explained that the current operators would absorb the additional time.

Mr. Maloy asked if there was any feedback from the senior center about the route adjustment. Ms. White stated CATS was testing an adjustment but did not get enough feedback so will now look at the adjustment in the summer. Mr. Niday asked if the Route 9 changes had been e budgeted. Ms. White stated the February changes were allocated in the budget.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend to MTC the February service changes as written by CATS staff.

B. Yearly Election of Chair & Co-Chair

Chairman Mike Warner reminded the committee it is a majority vote and told the committee he was interested in running again for TSAC Chairman, saying he would like to challenge the group to a different focus, to be advocates for transit. To be able to get the message out and to explain to their Councilman and the public what is happening with the Transit system because of the addition of the BLE. Mr. Warner stated that TSAC needed to be able to explain the bus route changes, know what opportunities there are for riders, to advocate for transit and know the effects of the changes. Mr. Warner stated he has asked Mr. Niday to help manage the placement of a committee member if they wanted to go out and speak to a Council member or a member of MTC. To get face to face with people to represent the ridership and explain what is going on with transit in this community. Mr. Warner also asked Mr. Lansdell to take a formal position as Co-chair. Mr. Warner also stated he would take any ones formal position at this time.

Mr. Maloy stated he would defer from any Chair or Co-chair nominations to TSAC this year but encouraged the group to be community focused, to be active listeners to riders and to be able to bring those items to the committee and to take the opportunity to bring items to MTC and City Council. Mr. Warner said he would like the committee to become the experts about what is going on and to present themselves that way. Mr. Warner stated he wanted the committee to bring reports to the TSAC meeting as well.

Mr. Larry Kopf stated it will be a big year for CATS and that it will be incumbent on CATS staff to do a good job educating the committee on the route changes because the changes are going to affect how people use the transit system as we try to make the system better for riders with the Envision My Ride initiative. Mr. Kopf encouraged the committee to be more proactive and to be an advocate.

Mr. Niday asked if there were a way to have a meeting to inform the public. Mr. Jernigan explained how the public meetings are done and suggested that perhaps committee members could attend some of the meetings and bring back the public's concerns for discussion at the TSAC meetings. Mr. Kopf stated that CATS staff holds Public and neighborhood Meetings and that he would send the committee a list of those meeting dates. Mr. Kopf also encouraged the committee members to attend and help the public understand the changes. Mr. Maloy stated he would like to attend some of the Public meetings that were outside his own district and engage the public. Mr. Kopf stated CATS is going out to the CTC and to bus stops to talk to people.

Mr. Jernigan stated he would like for the committee to break out into the small groups again and have more time for discussion. Mr. Hardee agreed break out groups was a very useful exercise. Mr. Kopf stated we will try to implement the group discussion as time permits.

Mr. Maloy made a nomination for Mr. Warner. Mr. Kopf summarized the nomination saying the motion would be to re-elect Michael Warner as Chairman and Terry Lansdell as Co-Chair with Joshua Niday as an alternate. Mr. Kopf asked for a motion, Mr. Jernigan made the motion and Mr. Maloy seconded the motion.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion Mr. Warner as Chairman, Mr. Lansdell as Co-Chairman and Mr. Niday as Alternate.

IV. Service Issues

There were no service issues but there were other conversations from Committee members.

Mr. Maloy suggested that the River District project be a topic for the Committee. Mr. Kopf explained where the project is thus far saying that CATS has provided comments to the City department working with the developers and indicated what CATS would like to see in terms of how it would develop so that transit could work in that area. CATS also talked about designing accessible roads for bus stops and to allocate space for park and rides and space for BRT or Rail. Mr. Kopf explained that The River district is part of the planning for the Envision My Ride. And CATS will provide the committee information as it goes along.

Mr. MacRae asked if he could get a copy of the proposed route changes for the buses that will connect in with the BLE. Mr. MacRae said yes the ones that will be presented at the meeting CATS will have at the Transit Center. Mr. MacRae also wanted to have an update on the real time app. Mr. Kinard explained that in September the app began to

get some issues that when a trip gets behind it loses the trip and it disappears. CATS' is working on this issue with the developer.

Mr. Cosentine asked if more funding had been established for the Silver Line, and Gateway station projects. Mr. Kopf stated CATS is still trying to find more money for the Gateway project but would try and get more information from Ms. Votaw about the project and then give an update. Mr. Kopf asked Mr. Lawrence to speak about the Silver Line.

Mr. Lawrence stated step one for the Silver line was to get it adopted into the budget system plan and it was. Then CATS was approved by MTC to move forward with the alternatives that CATS looked at for further studies to see how it will connect going towards the West and how it will combine that with a Light Rail study. Then the next phase will be to identify funding to take them through Engineering. Mr. Cosentine asked if the Red Line was still being considered. Mr. Lawrence stated the long range option is to use the O line. Right now CATS' is looking at how to best use the express lanes. We will do a quick study that will finish up next year with recommendation for enhanced express service. Mr. Warner stated that CATS CEO John Lewis had mentioned in MTC that he met with Anthony Fox about the Red Line recently. So it is still on the table.

Mr. MacRae asked if there was an update on the ticket vending machines for the BLE. Mr. Kinard stated CATS recently sent a notice to the vendor that we wanted to purchase the machines. CATS will have one set up as a test machine at the 7th street station north bound. This will allow for testing with the BLE. CATS' is currently waiting for the Contract to be signed, after that the TVM's will be shipped. If all goes well we may start using the TVM's this spring. That will be six to twelve months from now.

Mr. Kinard stated CATS is looking at implementing the change card on fareboxes, so if you put in a five dollar bill you will get a card readout that has a dollar and eighty cents on a magnetic card, then the next time you ride you can swipe that card for the dollar and eighty cents and then add the remaining fare via cash.

Mr. Jernigan wondered if there will be an all-day pass for the bus. Mr. Kopf stated that CATS is really looking at the Smart Card instead. Mr. Kinard stated an all-day pass on the bus would create more performance issues than it would help out.

Mr. Maloy suggested posting the cost of the fare in larger print so customers can see how much they have to pay when boarding the bus. Mr. Kopf stated the cost is on the fare box. Mr. Maloy stated it is too small. Mr. Kopf stated CATS will look into that. Mr. Maloy also asked about the Gold Line plans as he had heard that the contract was going to cost a lot less money. Mr. Kinard stated the contract for Phase II has been approved

along with the vehicle purchase with construction to start around late January. As far as the cost being less, the City portion bid came in less but it is not less for CATS.

Ms. Debra Franklin Bus Operator for CATS elaborated on the fare box issue saying the bus drivers like the fare box that talks and tell the customer they owe addition money for the fare after they use a transfer from a circular bus as it helps take the driver out it. The fare box also asks for senior ID.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Warner reported about the MTC meeting saying it was kind of a Sprint because the CRTPO was having a meeting after MTC so there was a number of action Items that MTC had to go through. Those Items were;

- Federal and State Legislative Agendas
- Supporting the continuation of Federal resources for the build out of the 2030 Transit Corridor plan
- Secure State funding for the LYNX Blue LE
- Silver Line as it is proposed, was approved will move forward
- Mr. Muth presented a refresh of the 2030 Plan
- Regional transit public engagement series

VI. Manager of Operation Report

Larry Kopf CATS Transit Operations Manager reported that CATS was getting to the end of the proposals for the bus rail integration, bus routes that connect into the BLE. CATS will be bringing the proposals to TSAC for approval at a later date. CATS' is also busy updating the 2030 Plan.

The Committee Adjourned

Next TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2017
